

**Minutes of the Meeting of Frilsham Parish Council held on
Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7.30pm in Frilsham Clubroom.**

Present

Cllr. M. Allum (Chairman)

Cllr. G. Barber

Cllr. M. Goodenough

Cllr. B. Lyon

Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk)

- 1 **To receive apologies for absence.**
Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. Coxhead, Cllr. Morley, District Cllr. Culver and Mr. Hole (Yattendon Estate).
- 2 **Declarations of Interest.**
 - 2.1 **To receive declarations of interest.**
There were no updates to the Register of Interests.
 - 2.2 **Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items.**
Cllr. Allum declared an interest in the allotment fencing as an allotment holder.
- 3 **To approve minutes of meeting.**
The minutes of the meeting of FPC held on 12th July 2023 were corrected and will be signed by Cllr. Allum.
- 4 **Matters arising from the minutes.**
 - 4.1 **Vehicles parked at the back of Beechfield.**
Vehicles remain parked at the back of Beechfield and have not been moved. WBC are not making progress with removing them.
 - 4.2 **Verges.**
Verges have not been cut and as a result safety is being compromised. Brocks Lane, Pot Kiln Lane and Wellhouse Lane are particularly bad.
- 5 **Report from Yattendon Estate.**
There was no report from Yattendon Estate.
- 6 **Planning**
 - 6.1 **Planning applications on which FPC has been consulted by WBC:**
 - 6.1.1 **23/01686/FUL – Orchard Day Nursery, Everington Bungalow, Everington Hill (Yattendon Parish).**
Change of use of the existing building from a day nursery to a residential dwelling and erection of extensions following the demolition of the existing conservatory.
FPC has **objected** to this application which is to be considered by the Western Area Planning Committee (WAP) on Wednesday 20th September.
FPC will not make representation at the WAP.
 - 6.2 **Planning Decisions made by WBC:**
No decisions have been made by WBC on any planning applications in Frilsham.
 - 6.3 **Pre-consultation on Cornerstone 12489428, Yattendon Road.**
Proposed base station installation upgrade at Cornerstone 112489428, Hermitage Spring Plantation, Yattendon Road, Hermitage. RG18 0XU
FPC feel that a tree style mast would be less intrusive.
 - 7 **West Berkshire District Councillors Report (submitted prior to the meeting by District Cllr. Culver).**
 - 7.1 **Planning.**
At WAP on 20th September we will be considering Everington Bungalow application Ref 23/00552/HOUSE in Yattendon parish.

At the last WAP the latest set of planning conditions for the Compton Institute were discharged. Homes England, the current landowner, is in touch with Compton and East Ilsley PCs and has reassured us it will communicate with residents via Compilations magazine and social media, and letters in the case of immediate neighbours of the site. Demolition began officially just after bank holiday Monday.

The Downs School sports hall was approved by WAPC too, but Compton PC and myself raised concerns about a number of matters including the impact on parking and public access to the facility. I'm in touch with some of the coaches who provide public sport and have asked them to let me know if they encounter more problems with WBC and the contractor Everyone Active.

7.2 Members' Community Bids.

The council's annual 'Members' Community Bids' scheme is open. Deadline is 31st October. I can apply for £5,000 in match funding.

7.3 WBC Finances.

West Berkshire Council issued a press release on 22nd August about its finances. 'West Berkshire Council has implemented an action plan to reduce spending this year as it continues to be affected by rising inflation, increasing customer demand and a challenging job market. Spending reductions will be focused on internal measures with frontline services remaining available to the public and future spending prioritised towards supporting our most vulnerable residents. Forecasts earlier in the year showed an £8.7m overspend by year-end but measures put in place already have reduced this to £6.3m. The ongoing benefits of this work together with new measures should deliver a break-even position by the year end. The overspend is being driven by an increasing demand for social care as well as the increasing costs of providing the care, the cost of delivering Home to School Transport as well as the impact of inflation and high levels of agency worker costs.' Full press release is on the council's website.

7.4 Recreation Facilities.

West Berkshire Council has opened the Northcroft Lido and is still planning to re-open Faraday Road football pitch.

7.5 Scrutiny Commission.

On 14th September the new Thames Valley Superintendent will be attending Scrutiny Commission to give a presentation and answer questions. On 11th October, Thames Water and the Environment Agency will attend the Commission to make presentations and answer questions. I am also chairing two 'task and finish' groups (sub-committees) looking at lessons learned from the covid pandemic, and one looking at healthcare provision in new housing developments. Scrutiny will also play an important role in combing through the council's finances and making recommendations for savings and income generation.

8 **Playground and Facilities around the Club Room.**

8.1 Update on the bin situation.

The new contractor Tactical has emptied all of the bins every week and so far have been a huge improvement.

8.2 Update on the Play area.

Whilst the vegetation has been cut back, ideally it needs to be cut back between the two fences. Cllr. Allum will obtain replacement fence posts and organise a working party to repair the fencing.

Cllr. Allum has tightened the bolts on the zip wire.

The fence between the car park and the football pitch needs repair, however, there has been an issue sourcing the correct sized timber. Cllr. Lyon will continue his search.

8.3	<p><u>An update on the replacement timbers and the multi-play platform.</u></p> <p>The platform is not a symmetrical shape and there have been issues about getting the specific measurements. Approximate dimensions have been sent and it will be cut to fit when it arrives. Cllr. Lyon has chased up A.E. Evans, but there has been no response.</p> <p>Cllr. Allum has sorted out screws which were protruding and will carry out the inspections of the play area until the next meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk will forward the details of wet pour surfacing used by Bucklebury PC, which should be suitable to fill the gap between the surfacing and the round-a-bout base.</p>	MA BL HP
8.4	<p><u>An update on the surfacing.</u></p> <p>The quote for the surfacing has now expired but gives an idea of the funds which are likely to be needed.</p> <p>Funds available for the replacement surfacing include nearly £4,000 from FPC (including some unspent CIL funds) and £2,229.50 from the Club Room. There was a discussion about applying for a WBC Members Bid and a Greenham Trust grant.</p>	HP
9	<p><u>Environment.</u></p>	
9.1	<p><u>Deer fencing on the School Lane Allotment.</u></p> <p>Cllr. Goodenough has the wire and posts. Cllr. Coxhead is keen to get a working party together to put the fencing up. Cllr. Allum will collect the bits from Cllr. Goodenough.</p>	MA IC MG
9.2	<p><u>Further enhancements to the Pot Kiln Lane Allotment site.</u></p> <p>Cllr. Allum has cut around the cherry trees. Working is ongoing to secure a donated bench in the quiet area.</p>	IC
10	<p><u>The Clubroom.</u></p> <p>The initial results from the parish consultation held in May and via The Broadsheet are largely in favour of a complete rebuild. This needs agreement with the Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust who own the building and need to run the project.</p> <p>Cllr. Lyon has a meeting with the Trust about the finances required for the project.</p> <p>A second person has been found who is willing to oversee the project and help with the details which should help to keep the costs down.</p> <p>Once the Trust agree to the proposal Cllr. Lyon can start to look for bigger grant funds.</p>	BL
11	<p><u>Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust.</u></p> <p>The Trust have now purchased a tractor mower which can be used to cut the grass of the football pitch (in Frilsham) in the Winter and the cricket pitch (in Yattendon) in Summer.</p> <p>There is to be an open meeting of the Trust on the 3rd October when grants will be finalised.</p> <p>Tessa Allum has agreed to take on the position of Chairman of the Fete committee, which is considered to be a very strong.</p>	BL
12	<p><u>Clerk's Report.</u></p>	
12.1	<p><u>Correspondence.</u></p>	
12.1.1	<p>Pang Valley Flood Forum 10th Anniversary and Flood Protection Exhibition</p> <p>This is to take place on the 4th November at Hampstead Norreys Village Hall.</p> <p><i>This event was cancelled following the murder, in Uganda, of one of the Trustees.</i></p>	
12.1.2	<p>WBC Consultation on Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)</p> <p>The closing date for comments on the ROWIP is 23rd November 2023.</p> <p>Concern has previously been raised about horse riders using public footpaths and the damage this causes. Some of the routes used are not official public rights of way as shown on the Definitive Footpath map.</p> <p>The Clerk will contact WBC about obtaining a map showing where all the way markers should be, for a survey to be carried out.</p>	HP

- 12.1.3 Celebration and Commemoration of 80 Years since D-Day.**
There are national proposals to light beacons on the 6th June to mark this occasion.
- 12.1.4 Local Nature Recovery Strategy.**
The Local Nature Recovery Strategy covering West Berkshire is being led by Windsor and Maidenhead Council and will be a Berkshire wide strategy. A webinar is planned for parish council on 20th September at 11am. Cllr. Allum has registered to attend.
- 12.1.5 Community Speed watch Seminar.**
WBC has organised a Community Speed Watch (CSW) seminar to take place in the WBC Council offices on Wednesday 25th October at 6pm. Thames Valley Police (TVP) will be at the event and able to answer questions about the CSW which is operated by TVP. The TVP CSW results in any drivers exceeding the Association of Police Officers (ACPO) speed receiving warning letters. If the same vehicle is reported speeding on 3 separate occasions, TVP will make a visit in person to the registered keeper of the vehicle.
- 12.2 Items for The Broadsheet.**
A summary of the meeting will be submitted to the Broadsheet with the new councillors and the new bin emptying contract being specifically mentioned.
- 13 Finances.**
- 13.1 Financial Statement.**
The Financial Statement was circulated to those present prior to the meeting and showed a balance of £42,034.57, after all payments and credits have cleared.
Payments since the last meeting:
- | | |
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| Gigaclear (August & September Broadband) | £70.00 |
| Salaries (July and August 2023) | £426.98 |
| Bank Charges (15/6/23 to 14/8/23) | £25.00 |
| Bin emptying (July & August) | £48.36 |
| SSE – Defibrillator 1/6/2023 – 11/8/2023 | £19.45 |
- A bank reconciliation to the last statement dated 15th August 2023 with a balance of £42,456.87 was circulated prior to the meeting. The sum of £22,500 is ringfenced as a donation to the Clubroom for the refurbishment/rebuild project.
- 13.2 Verification of the Financial Statement.**
Cllr. Lyon verified the financial statement against the bank statement.
- 13.3 Increase in Gigaclear Broadband Cost to the Clubroom.**
It was resolved to accept an increase of £2.00 per month in the cost of the Gigaclear contract to the Clubroom.
- 14 Any Other Business.**
- 14.1 Website.**
Cllr. Lyon reported that Fast hosts currently migrate websites. The cost for hosting the website for the first year is approximately £30, which will rise to approximately £60 in subsequent years. Fast hosts provide 25GB of storage; the current website uses approximately 2GB. Fast hosts may also offer email addresses. Cllr. Lyon will continue to explore options.

HP

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Date of next meeting:

Frilsham Parish Council: Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Clubroom.